

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04124 222011Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 221946Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4959

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4124

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF USIA OFFICERS IN BEIRUT

REF: STATE 250969; DAMASCUS 4123

1. HAVE JUST FINISHED MEETING WITH SHIHABI (1930Z). HE PLEDGES FULL ASSISTANCE. WANTS LATEST DETAILS GIVING ALL LEADS WHICH MIGHT IDENTIFY THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR KIDNAPPING. DID FEMALE EMPLOYEES LEARN ANYTHING DURING PERIOD THEIR ABDUCTION?

2. AS PERSONAL ADVICE, SHIHABI URGES THAT WHEN INVESTIGATION BEGINS TO NARROW IN ON SUSPECTS THAT WE DECIDE WHICH AUTHORITY IS TO CARRY IT TO CONCLUSION. COMMENTED THAT TOO MANY PARTIES GOT INVOLVED IN MORGAN CASE. THAT COMPLICATED SECURING COLONEL'S RELEASE. EMPHASIZED HE NOT ASKING THAT HE OR ANY OTHER SYRIAN OFFICIAL BE OUR AGENT IN THIS CASE BUT MERELY THAT WE CONSIDER CAREFULLY DESIRABILITY OF LIMITING THE NUMBER OF THOSE INVOLVED.

3. HE HAS GIVEN ME PRIVATE TELEPHONE NUMBER SO I CAN REACH HIM AT ANY TIME DURING THIS NIGHT TO PASS ON DETAILS AS RECEIVED FROM EMBASSY BEIRUT. CONFIRMED THAT ARAFAT, JUMBLATT AS WELL AS JUMBLATT'S DEPUTY, ABBAS KHALAF, ARE ALL IN DAMASCUS TONIGHT.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE BEIRUT
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